

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

(ISO) W

----- 037551

R 131110Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9130

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: EXPULSIONS AND SHAKINGS WITHIN PASOK

REF ATHENS A-54, MARCH 20, 1975

1. SUMMARY. INTERNAL DISSENT WITHIN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE PAN-HELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) WHICH FIRST SURFACED IN FEBRUARY (REF AIRGRAM) HAVE NOW COME TO A BOIL RESULTING IN THE EXPULSION OF ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, A DOZEN OR SO LOWER LEVEL CADRE, AND SOME YOUTH LEADERS. THE DISSENTERS REJECT THE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THEM AND VOW TO FIGHT ON AGAINST ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S ANTI-DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF THE PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU GAINED MAJORITY CONTROL OF THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE CONVENTION IN MARCH (ATHENS 2151) HE HAS APPARENTLY FAILED TO PERSUADE OR COERCE A VOCAL MINORITY AGAINST HIS LEADERSHIP TO CEASE AND DESIST. THE RESULT WAS THE EXPULSION ON JUNE 8 OF ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MOST OF THE EXPELLEES HAVE EXCELLENT RESISTANCE RECORDS ACHIEVED INSIDE GREECE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE, WHICH MERGED ORGANIZATIONALLY TO FORM PASOK IN LAST AUTUMN'S NATIONAL ELECTION. THE PASOK
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE (OR HEADQUARTERS) SAID THE ELEVEN WERE

THROWN OUT OF THE PARTY AND THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF WILLFUL OBSTRUCTION OUTSIDE OF PARTY CHANNELS. ON JUNE 11 THE ELEVEN DECLARED THEY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGALITY OF THEIR EXPULSION AND CALLED OTHER PASOK CADRES TO JOIN THEM IN RESISTING THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MOVES OF PAPANDREOU.

3. IN RELATED PARTY HOUSE CLEANING, TEN OTHER LOWER LEVEL PARTY FUNCTIONARIES WERE ALSO PURGED, THEY HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ACTIVE IN THE PANHELLENIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT (PAK), THE MAJOR ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE GREECE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH PAPANDREOU DURING THE JUNTA PERIOD. THERE ARE ALSO PRESS REPORTS THAT EIGHT ACTIVISTS FROM THE PASOK YOUTH CADRES WERE FORCED TO RESIGN THEIR OFFICES.

4. LADY AMALIA FLEMING, A PROMINENT MEMBER OF PASOK'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CAME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE EXPELLED INDIVIDUALS IN A LETTER TO THE ATHENS PRESS. SHE CALLED THE EXPULSIONS "ARBITRARY" AND EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE VAGUE EXCUSE FROM PARTY HEADQUARTERS JUSTIFYING THE DISMISSAL OF "FIGHTERS OF DEMOCRACY AGAINST THE JUNTA TYRANNY" SUCH AS GEORGE ZIGORYANNIS (FORMER PAK ASSOCIATE) AND NIKOS CONSTANTOPOULOS (DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE ACTIVIST). THIS PROMPTED PASOK HEADQUARTERS TO ATTEMPT TO DAMPEN THE DIMENSIONS OF THE REVOLT AGAINST OFFICIAL LEADERSHIP; ONE STATEMENT OF JUNE 10 CLAIMED THE PRESENT DISPUTE IN NO WAY SUGGESTED THAT ANY OF THE PASOK DEPUTIES WHO HOLD SEATS ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD LEAVE THAT BODY OR THAT LADY FLEMING WOULD RESIGN; ANOTHER RELEASE OF JUNE 12 ANNOUNCED THAT PASOK WAS NOT GOING TO SPEND ALL ITS TIME CLOSED IN UPON ITSELF BUT RATHER SHOULD "OPEN ITS DOORS" TO THOUSANDS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS EAGER TO JOIN THE STRUGGLE FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION, THE REALIZATION OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, AND A COMPLETE CLEANSING OF THE JUNTA LEGACY.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN PAPANDREOU'S INABILITY TO TOLERATE DISSENT AND THE HOT HOUSE CLIMATE OF IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE PASOK CADRE, FIVE MORE CRITICS MAY SPRING FORTH FOR EVERY ONE CHOPPED DOWN. KUBISCH
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY EXPULSIONS, PARTY DISSENSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS04355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750207-0458
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750650/aaaabtat.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS A-54, 75 MARCH 20, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPULSIONS AND SHAKINGS WITHIN PASOK
TAGS: PINT, GR, PASOK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006